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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: William N. WEAVER )  
Robert E. UNGAR )  
Lonnie R. SEYMOUR )  
Serial No.: 09/714,340 ) Group: 3721  
Filed: 16 November 2000 ) Examiner: L.B. Tran  
Title: SYSTEM AND APPARATUS FOR )  
PACKAGING CONTAINERS )

AMENDMENT

RECEIVED

NOV 21 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed on 09 August 2002, Applicants  
amend the subject application as follows:

1. (Amended) A system for packaging multiple containers, the  
system comprising the steps of:

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12 NOVEMBER 2002

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Signature

ITW-12833

K/S

Serial No.: 09/714,340

moving a carrier through an applying machine, the carrier constructed of flexible plastic having a plurality of elongated apertures aligned in transverse ranks, which elongated apertures are oriented in a longitudinal direction of the carrier and have a longitudinal pitch between a center of each adjacent elongated aperture, the longitudinal pitch having a first length;

moving a plurality of containers through the applying machine, each container of the plurality of containers having a maximum diameter having a second length shorter than the first length and each container of the plurality of containers spaced at the first length apart from an adjacent container by the applying machine; and

positioning the carrier over the plurality of containers whereby each elongated aperture engages with one of the containers to form a package having a container pitch between a center of adjacent containers approximately equal to the second length.

No additional fee is necessary as the total number of claims remains the same.

#### REMARKS

Applicants urge reconsideration of the subject U.S. patent application in